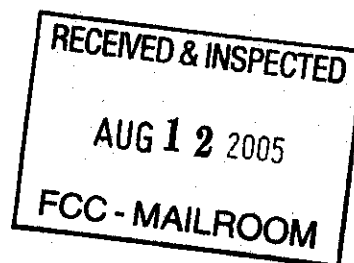




DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

August 4, 2005



Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445-12th Street, SW
Room TW-B204
Washington, DC 20554

RE: USF Certification - FCC Docket No. 96-45

Enclosed for filing in FCC Docket No. 96-45 is an Affidavit certifying that all universal service support will only be used by the undersigned carrier for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

The undersigned carrier has also filed the Affidavit with the North Dakota Public Service Commission, and it is anticipated that the North Dakota Public Service Commission will also certify by October 1, 2003, that the undersigned carrier will only use said universal service support for its intended purpose. However, because of the importance of this issue, the fast-approaching certification deadline of October 1, 2003, the undersigned carrier is also providing certification directly to the Federal Communications Commission to ensure that the undersigned carrier continues to receive the universal service support for which it is eligible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Wilhelmi".

Mark Wilhelmi
Manager
Midstate Telephone Company
FRN: 0003-7558-08

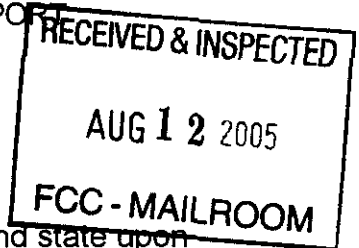
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BEFORE THE NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION IN CASE NO. PU-439-02-441
AND BEFORE THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION IN DOCKET NO. 96-45

AFFIDAVIT OF MIDSTATE TELEPHONE COMPANY REGARDING
CERTIFICATION OF USE OF FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE SUPPORT

State of North Dakota)
) ss.
County of Mountrail)



Mark Wilhelmi, being first duly sworn on oath, does hereby declare and state upon affiant's own personal knowledge as follows:

1. Affiant is employed by Midstate Telephone Company (hereinafter, the "Company"), in the position of Manager.

2. The Company is an eligible telecommunications carrier within the meaning of Section 214(e) of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (hereinafter, the "Act"), and the Company is eligible to receive federal high-cost universal service support (hereinafter, the "Support") pursuant to Section 254(e) of the Act. The North Dakota Public Service Commission (hereinafter, the "NDPSC") has designated the Company as an eligible telecommunications carrier.

3. Affiant is personally familiar with all of the Support received by the Company, and with how the Company uses all of Support that it receives.


4. The Company is filing this affidavit in compliance with the order of the Federal Communication Commission (hereinafter, "FCC") dated May 23, 2001, in Docket Number 96-45 (FCC 01-157) (hereinafter, the "Order"), as codified in 47 C.F.R. § 54.314, which requires certification to the FCC that all federal Support will be used by carriers within each state only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, as required by Section 254(e) of the Act and 47 C.F.R. § 54.7. The Company is also filing this affidavit in compliance with the Orders of the NDPSC dated August 28, 2001, in Case No. PU-439-01-460 and dated August 28, 2002, in Case No. PU-439-02-441. This affidavit is filed to facilitate the Company's receipt of federal Support for all four quarters of 2006, and for all quarters thereafter.

5. The Company hereby certifies that it will only use the Support that the Company receives during the four quarters of 2006 (and all quarters thereafter) for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the Support is intended pursuant to and consistent with Section 254(e) of the Act and 47 C.F.R. § 54.7. The Company will use the Support to support the following services, as designated in 47 C.F.R. § 54.101, throughout the Company's study area: (a) voice grade access to the public switched network; (b) local usage; (c) dual-tone multi-frequency signaling or its

functional equivalent; (d) single-party service or its functional equivalent; (e) access to emergency services; (f) access to operator services; (g) access to interexchange service; (h) access to directory assistance; and (i) toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers.


Dated this 5th day of August, 2005.

MIDSTATE TELEPHONE COMPANY

By 
Mark Wilhelmi
Its: Manager

State of North Dakota)
) ss.
County of Mountrail)

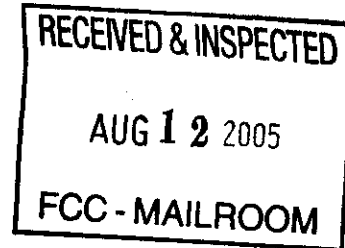
On this 5th day of August, 2005, before me, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally appeared MARK WILHELMI, known to me to be the Manager of MIDSTATE TELEPHONE COMPANY, the corporation that is described in and that executed the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that such corporation executed the same.


Mountrail, Notary Public
For the State of North Dakota
My commission expires: 6/18/09

5 August 2005

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communication Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554



Re: Docket No. 04-398
International Calls to Mobile Phones

Dear Ms. Dortch:

First of all, I am not sure Document No. 04-398 is correct for this subject, since it refers to Northland Cable Television, Inc.

My comments/concerns are as follows:

1. Mobile Termination Surcharges from the U.S. to Austria are generated by the country of Austria. Why does MCI charge \$.19/minute and SBC charge \$.20/minute for the same foreign surcharge?
2. The above surcharges are for calls from a land line phone to a mobile phone in Austria. Why, then, is there no surcharge from Cingular Wireless for a mobile to mobile call from the U.S. to Austria?
3. Why are there no surcharges by U.S. phone companies for calls from Austria to mobile phones in the U.S.?
4. Why do U.S. phone companies fail to fully inform customers in advance about their Mobile Termination Surcharges, which account for more than three times the amount of the direct costs of the calls?

Please have someone consider the above and reply at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Griffin".

John Griffin
6 Andorra Street
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677
GriffInn1@aol.com

Encl. Copy of FCC Consumer Commentary/International Calls to Mobile Phones

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Contact Information

(202) 418-0265

EDOCShelp@fcc.gov

FCC Consumer Commentary

International Calls to Mobile Phones

Document released on 10/18/2004

[DOC-253253A1.doc](#) [DOC-253253A1.pdf](#) [DOC-253253A1.txt](#)

NORTHLAND CABLE TELEVISION, INC

Granted the the Petition for Extension of Special Relief, requesting an extension of a waiver of the Commission rules defining systems subject to small system rate relief

Document released on 02/18/2004

[DA-04-398A1.doc](#) [DA-04-398A1.pdf](#) [DA-04-398A1.txt](#)

FCC Consumer Commentary

International Calls to Mobile Phones:

What You Should Know

How much does it cost to call a mobile phone in another country?

Many Americans have friends and family living outside of the United States. Staying in touch with them is only a phone call away. Over the last 10 years, the average cost of staying connected to our friends and family abroad has dropped. In 1992, an international call from the U.S. cost an average of \$1.00 per minute. By 2002, that price dropped to \$0.26. Currently rates are even lower.

But calls to mobile phones abroad can be much higher. Some foreign mobile phone companies charge an extra fee to terminate calls on their networks and U.S. long-distance phone companies pass that fee on to U.S. callers in the form of a "mobile surcharge." Depending on the country called, these surcharges can be as high as 20 - 30 cents per minute. There are now over a hundred routes on which mobile surcharges (extra fees) apply. Many U.S. callers may not even be aware that they are calling a foreign mobile number and are incurring surcharges each minute that they are on the line.

What U.S. customers can do now to find out if they are calling a mobile number?

U.S. callers can check whether they are calling a foreign mobile phone by consulting their long-distance company's web-site for a listing of mobile exchanges on each route. The web-site should also list the mobile surcharge for the route.



The FCC is inquiring into these and other issues related to costs associated with making calls from the U.S. to mobile phones in other countries.

On October 14, 2004, the Federal Communications Commission initiated an inquiry that requests information on foreign mobile termination rates (the rate to terminate the call to a mobile phone in another country), actions taken by foreign regulators, and the impact of these rates and actions on U.S. competition and U.S. consumers. It also inquires whether U.S. customers have adequate information and alternatives regarding such rates and whether such charges raise consumer concerns. The record developed in this proceeding will help the Commission to assess properly the effects of foreign mobile termination rates on U.S. customers and competition in the U.S.-international services market.

Consumers have a role to play in providing information to the FCC.

The FCC is asking consumers and consumer groups to provide input on the following questions:

- ▶ Are consumers aware of the surcharges associated with making a call from the United States to a foreign mobile phone?
- ▶ When placing a call to mobile phones, are consumers aware that they are calling a mobile phone, and are they aware of the charges for such calls?
- ▶ What is the possible effect of high foreign mobile termination rates on U.S. consumers?
- ▶ Is there any evidence that mobile termination rates are affecting the number of minutes of calls being made from the United States to mobile phones in other countries?
- ▶ Do U.S. customers have a meaningful opportunity to select lower mobile surcharges among U.S. international carriers?
- ▶ Are there consumer complaints concerning the cost of calling from the United States to a foreign mobile phone? If so, how many and what type of consumer complaints have been received?
- ▶ What is the value of consumer alerts and consumer education as a means of addressing foreign mobile termination rates?
- ▶ What consumer education and outreach efforts, if any, are being conducted by U.S. carriers to educate U.S. customers regarding foreign mobile termination rates and surcharges?
- ▶ To the extent that such consumer education efforts are taking place, what effect, if any, do these efforts have on the calling behavior of U.S. customers and on foreign mobile termination rates and surcharges?



How to provide input to this FCC Notice of Inquiry?

Complete details on FCC comment filing procedures can be found at:
<http://wireless.fcc.gov/csinfo/comments.html>. Comments can be filed by:

- ▶ Postal Mail: Office of the Secretary
FCC
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554
- ▶ Web site: www.fcc.gov Click on ECFS Express on the left hand side and click on "International Calls to Mobile Phones."

All comments should reference **Docket No. 04-398**

Check with your carrier to find out if the call you are making is to a mobile phone and applicable rates.

###

*For this or any other consumer publication in an accessible format
(electronic ASCII text, Braille, large print, or audio) please write or
call us at the address or phone number below, or send an e-mail to FCC504@fcc.gov.*

*To receive information on this and other FCC consumer topics through
the Commission's electronic subscriber service, click on
www.fcc.gov/cgb/emailservice.html.*

040411



Federal Communications Commission • Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau • 445 12th St., SW • Washington, DC 20554
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